



## **Yellowknife Minor Hockey – Under 9 Program Policy and Guidelines**

### **Background**

Hockey Canada started the half/cross ice program for all players ages 8 and under in 2017. This program is designed to teach and reinforce the foundational skills required by all hockey players while teaching fair play in a positive and fun atmosphere.

Half-ice hockey has many advantages for children 8 and under, including:

- 2 X the Puck Touches Per Player
- 6 X the Shot Attempts Per Player
- 3 X the Shots on Goal Per Goalie
- 2 X the Pass Attempts Per Player
- 5 X the Passes Received Per Player

Effective immediately, Yellowknife Minor Hockey will fully implement Hockey Canada's half/cross ice program for all kids aged 8 and under.

Hockey Canada has changed all division names effective the 2020/2021 hockey season. Therefore, Novice will now be referred to as 'Under 9'.

### **Under 9 Aged Players**

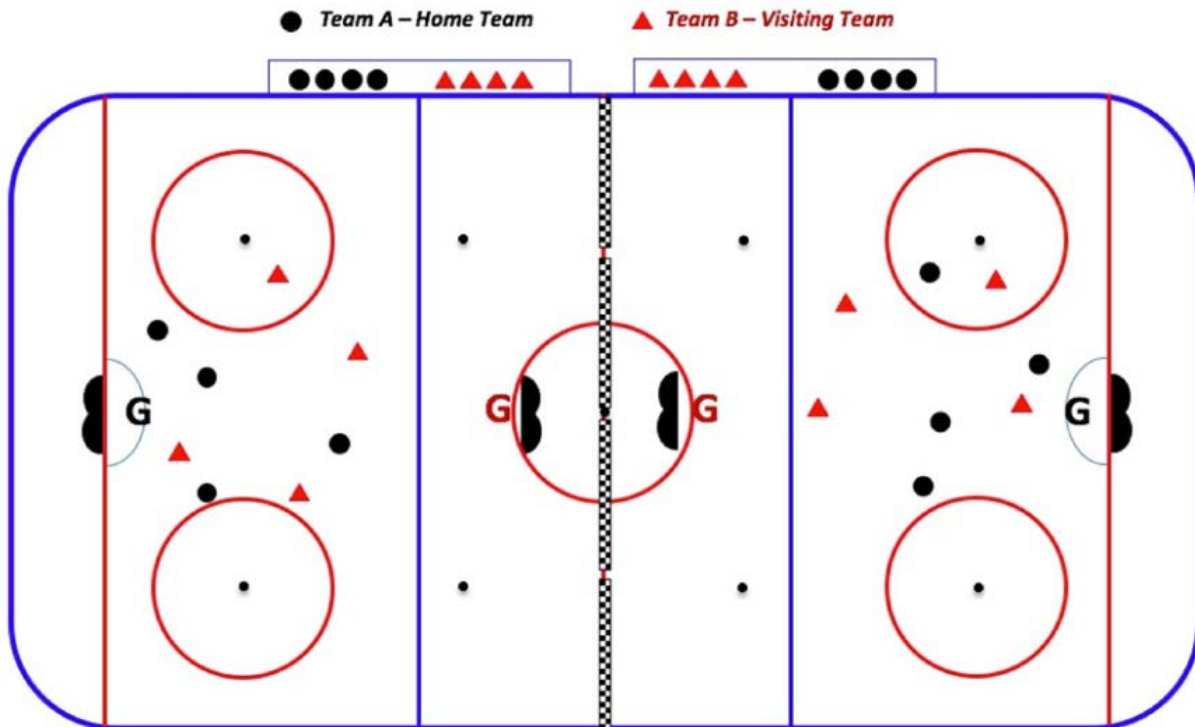
All kids aged 7 and 8 who are registered with Yellowknife Minor Hockey must be registered in the Under 9 age division. The following is the only circumstance in which a player not aged 7 or 8 can move to another division:

- The player is a first year hockey player/skater and wishes to play in the Under 7 Age Division.

The Yellowknife Minor Hockey Board will not allow any exceptions to the above stated rules and all players aged 8 and under must be registered in their appropriate age division.

### **Game Play**

The Under 9 Age Division game play will follow the Hockey Canada 'Two-Team Game Play Model' for the entirety of each season. This model is built on two teams playing one another in two halves.



- The two teams will each consist of a recommended 18 players (two goalies and 16 skaters).
- Each team will be divided into two units of nine players (one goalie and 8 skaters).
- Each game will be 45 minutes in length (2 X 20 Minute Straight Time Periods, 3 Minute Warmup, and 2 Minute Halftime)
- 4 vs 4 format plus a goalie
- The ice must be divided using the half ice boards provided by the league.
- All games are to be played with the small nets on each side.
- Faceoff's only occur at the beginning of each half. Players must back up past the center during a goalie stoppage or after a goal is scored. At this point the players may resume play.
- Body-checking is not permitted at any time.
- There are no center red lines or blue lines, therefore there is no icing or offsides.
- The home team shall defend the two ends of the rink, while the visiting team shall defend the center-ice nets.
- The horn will sound every minute to indicate a line change.
- At the end of the first half, the visiting team will switch ends and switch benches. The home teams players will remain on the same side during the entire game.
- The main score clock will be used to keep time and score on both sides of the game simultaneously.



## **Penalties**

- Minor penalties are noted with the official briefly raising their arm to indicate a penalty will be assessed. At the conclusion of the shift, the official notifies the coach of the infraction and the number of the offending player.
- If the offending team controls the puck after the infraction, the official blows the whistle and calls for a change of possession; the non-offending team is given room to play the puck (three-meter cushion).
- The offending player will sit out the next shift, but the team will play even strength.
- Should an infraction occur that would normally require a player to be ejected from the game (game misconduct, match penalty or gross misconduct), the player will be removed from the remainder of that game. Even under these circumstances, teams will not play shorthanded and no game incident report will be required.

## **Equipment**

Yellowknife Minor Hockey will provide each team with two sets of goalie equipment, each set will include:

- One set of goalie pads
- One Blocker
- One Glove
- One Chest Protector
- One Goalie Stick
- No helmet or goalie skates will be provided, the goalies can use their player helmets and skates when they dress as a goalie

This goalie gear will be assigned to the Under 9 Governor and will be up to him/her on how it will be assigned to each team.

Yellowknife Minor Hockey will also provide the half ice boards, pucks, pylons, two sets of nets, and other practice equipment at all three rinks.

## **Season Structure**

Mid-Late September – House Balancing and Team Creation

October to Mid-March – Two Practices and One Half Ice Game Per Week

## **Tournaments and Travel**

All teams within the Yellowknife Minor Hockey Under 9 Age Division will play in the Carl Bulger Invitational Tournament in Yellowknife held at the beginning of December of each season.

Other tournament invitations will be sent to the Under 9 division as they are received. These invitations typically include Hay River, Fort Smith, and one southern tournament. Travel permits must be completed before travel outside of Yellowknife to these tournaments and participation in them is strongly encouraged whenever possible.

## **Further Information**

<https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/hockey-programs/coaching/novice>